



## **600.12 News Media Access to Jail Facilities**

Number Series: 600 - Corrections Division

Sheriff's Approval: Digital

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### **600.12-1 Policy**

- I. Accredited representatives of the news media may have access to the Hendry County Sheriff's Office Jail facility with the approval of the Sheriff, or designee, consistent with preserving inmate's rights to privacy and maintaining order and security for the purpose of reporting items of interest.
- II. Corrections Division staff shall cooperate fully and impartially with the media while they are present in the facility.

### **600.12-2 News Media Credentials**

Accredited, properly identified representatives of local, national, or international news organizations who possess any or all of the following credentials:

- I. Florida Sheriff's Association courtesy press cards.
- II. Television and radio news cards issued by the National Association of Broadcasters.
- III. Courtesy press cards may be authorized only by the Sheriff or the Chief Deputy in the Sheriff's absence.
- IV. News media credentials shall be worn or displayed on the outer garment of news media representative when in the various offices of the Jail or inside the jail facility.

### **600.12-3 News Media Procedure**

- I. News media representatives seeking access to a facility during a riot, hostage situation, fire or other emergency situation will not be authorized access to any area where order has not been restored, and then only upon the approval of the Sheriff, or designee. Media representatives will be directed to a designated location away from the affected area.
- II. News media representatives shall not be allowed to photograph, film, or video tape the inside of the Jail facility except when authorized by the Sheriff. When such authorization is granted, news media representatives shall not photograph, film, or video tape any inmate/detainee in the facility without first obtaining a release in writing from each inmate/detainee photographed or filmed.

- III. News media representatives shall not be permitted to interview a pre-trial inmate unless approved by the Sheriff, the inmate, and the inmate's defense counsel and both the inmate and counsel have signed a release form.
- IV. News media representatives may visit inmates, with the inmate's consent, during the normal visitation schedule. Voice recording devices or cameras of any kind shall not be allowed inside the visitation areas, unless the Sheriff has granted permission.

## **REFERENCES**

State/Federal Regulations:

Florida Model Jail Standards

FCAC:

N/A

PREA:

N/A

Forms:

N/A

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

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